

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-10 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01

SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-05 CCO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OPR-02 SY-05

/115 W

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O P 151340Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9963

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MADRAS PRIORITY

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

USUN NEW YORK 1839

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 9506

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: NEW DELHI 9442

SUMMARY: NO NEWS ON THE LAW AND ORDER FRONT. TWO OF THE LEADERS OF THE NATIONWIDE AGITATION SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JULY 16 REPORTEDLY ARE WITHHOLDING THEIR PARTICIPATION UNTIL THE MOVEMENT "GAINS MOMENTUM." THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESS PARTY MET TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION JUSTIFYING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND DENOUNCING THE OPPOSITION. SPECIAL EXTRA-GOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY IS TO BE SET UP TO IMPLEMENT THE PRIME MINISTER'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM. THE NEW APLDRATUS WILL NOT BE RESTRICTED TO THE CONGRESS PARTY BUT WILL INCLUDE OTHERS, PRESUMABLY THE CPI AND PERHAPS THE ADMK. THUS FAR, ALL THIS IS TALK AND WE UNDERSTAND LITTLE SPECIFIC ACTION IS GOING ON. FIVE CONGRESS MP'S SUPPORTING J.P. HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY. THE CHIEF CENSOR IN TAMIL NADU HAS BEEN REPLACED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, APPARENTLY IN A MOVE TO CRACKDOWN ON THE DMK PRESS, WHICH HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF MRS. GANDHI. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE FOREIGN DEVIL AND IN PARTICULAR AGAINST THE CIA CONTINUE TO BE VOICED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PRESS. LABOR MINISTER REDDY SAID THE CIA WANTED TO DESTABILIZE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TO INSTALL ITS OWN HENCHMEN. WITH THE SHACKLING OF THE PRESS, INDIA'S RUMOR MILLS HAVE BEEN GIVEN LICENSE TO WORK OVERTIME. SPECULATION CIRCULATES CONCERNING CABINET CHANGES AND ARRESTS IN THE ARMED SERVICES. WE DOUBT MOST OF THE STORIES BUT BELIEVE OUR READERS SHOULD KNOW WHAT NEW DELHI IS LIKE THESE DAYS. END SUMMARY.

1. LAW AND ORDER: ON THE SURFACE AT LEAST, ALL APPEARS TRANQUIL. CONGEN BOMBAY REPORTS THAT TWO OF THE LEADERS OF THE PLANNED NATIONWIDE AGITATION (REFTEL), S. K. PATIL AND ACHARYA KRIPALANI, HAVE DECIDED TO WAIT UNTIL THE MOVEMENT "GAINS MOMENTUM" BEFORE PARTICIPATING.

2. MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS PROCLAIMED ON JUNE 26 THE CONGRESS PARTY WORKING COMMITTEE ADOPTED A RESOLUTION JUSTIFYING THE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES AND DAMNING THE OPPOSITION. ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE BUREAUCRACY COULD NOT BE DEPENDED UPON TO IMPLEMENT THE PM'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM, THE PARTY REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO SET UP ITS OWN MACHINERY
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WITH THE COOPERATION OF "LIKE-MINDED PARTIES AND THE PEOPLE." (COMMENT: "LIKE-MINDED PARTIES" IS UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN THE CPI AND POSSIBLY THE ADMK IN TAMIL NADU.) THE COMMITTEE ALSO DECIDED THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE STATES TO BE USED FOR SHORT-TERM LOANS TO LANDLESS AND MARGINAL FARMERS AND ARTISANS UNTIL THE GOI'S PLANNED SYSTEM OF RURAL CREDIT BECOMES OPERATIVE. THE COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTION EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE "SINCERE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE SOCIALIST AND NON-

ALIGNED COUNTRIES." (COMMENT: BY SUING "COUNTRIES," THE CONGRESS COMMITTEE PRESUMABLY IS REFERRING TO THE FAVORABLE PRESS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT, IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL SUPPORT, THAT IT HAS BEEN RECEIVING FROM THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.) CONGRESS PARTY PRESIDENT BAROOAH INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT FIVE CONGRESS MP'S HAD BEEN SUSPENDED FROM THE PARTY: CHANDRA SHEKHAR, MOHAN DHARIA, LAKSHMIKANTAMMA, RAM DHAN, SHAMBHU NARAIN MISHRA. ALL OF THEM IVAD SUPPORTED J.P. FROM WITHIN THE CONGRESS PARTY. (COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION FROM A GOOD SOURCE WHO HAS BEEN WORKING WITHIN CONGRESS TO ENERGIZE THE PARTY IS THAT AT LEAST THUS FAR EVERYTHING IS TALK WITH NO EFFECTIVE ACTION BEING TAKEN AND LITTLE PROSPECT OF SUCH ACTION.)

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NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01

SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-05 CCO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OPR-02 SY-05

/115 W

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O P 151340Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9964

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 9506

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

3. AS INDICATED NEW DELHI 9362, THERE WAS SOME QUESTION AS
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TO WHETHER CPM LEADER JYOTIRMOY BASU HAD BEEN ARRESTED. CONGEN
CALCUTTA REPORTS THAT HE HAS BEEN SEEN CIRCULATING FREELY IN
THE CITY FOR THE PAST 10 DAYS.

4. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (PIB)
HAS INFORMED MADRAS NEWSPAPERS THAT A PIB OFFICIAL WILL REPLACE
THE EXISTING CHIEF CENSOR IN TAMIL MADU. THIS WAS APPARENTLY
DONE WITHOUT CONSULTING THE STATE GOVERNMENT. CHIEF MINISTER
KARUNANIDHI REPORTEDLY TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 15 THAT
HE OBJECTED TO THE CHANGE AND WOULD HAVE NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH
CENSORSHIP IN HIS STATE. (COMMENT: THIS MOVE SUGGESTS THAT THE
GOI HAS DECIDED TO TIGHTEN CENSORSHIP IN TAMIL NADU AND PART-
ICULARLY TO CRACKDOWN ON THE PRO-DMK TAMIL LANGUAGE PRESS WPPKY
HAS BEEN RUNNING MATERIAL CRITICAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER.)

5. IN ADDHRA PRADESH, CHIEF MINISTER VENGAL RAO CONTINUES
TO MAKE REMARKS INVOLVING THE FOREIGN DEVIL IN INDIA' CURRENT
PROBLEMS. ON JULY 12 HE SAID THAT MRS. GANDHI HAD SAVED THE
COUNTRY FROM A MAJOR CATASTROPHE BY HER TIMELY ACTION AGAINST
FASCIST FORCES WHICH WERE AIDED AND ABETTED BY FOREIGN POWERS
JEALOUS OF INDIA.

6. AN EMBOFF JUST BACK FROM KASHMIR REPORTS ALL QUIET AND POL-
ITICS IN THE STATE UNAFFECTED. SHEIKH ABDULLAH ACCEPTED THE
GOI'S BANNING OF THE RSS AND JAMIAT-I-ISLAMI (UNDER THE CON-
SITUATION, KASHMIR'S ASSET TO MANY TYPES OF CENTRAL ORDINANCES
IN OPTIONAL) AS HIS GOVERNMENT DID THE ORIGINAL EMERGENCY PRO-
CLAMATION. GOVERNOR JHA HOPED THE EMERGENCY WOULD BRING "SOLID
PROGRESS" AND IMPROVED ADMINISTRATION. TWO DISTRICT MAGISTRATES
DIFFERED ON THE EMERGENCY: ONE PRAISING IT AND EXPRESSING
DOUBT ABOUT DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA; THE OTHER CONDEM-
NING MRS. GANDHI FOR A "POWER GRAB."

7. MADRAS MAIL REPORTS GOI LABOR MINISTER K.V. RAGHUNATHA
REDDY JULY 14 IN BANGALORE SAID INTERNATIONAL POTER STRUCTURE
LIKE THE CIA WANTED TO DESTABILIZE POLITICAL LIFE AND DEMOCRATIC

INSITUATIONS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SO THAT THEY COULD
INSTALL THEIR OWN HENCHMEN. REDDY, WHO WAS ADDRESSING ONE-DAY
"ANTI-FASCIST CONVENTION," SAID RIGHT REACTIONARIES WOULD
"MASSACRE" SOCIALISTIC AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN THE COUNTRY AND
"THEY HAVE ALLIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO INSPIRE AND
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INSTIGATE THEM FOR THE PURPOSES OF CREATING POLITICAL DESTABIL-
IZATION." REDDY ALSO REPORTED AS SAYING THAT SOME OF THE DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES USE AID TO KEEP THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNDERDEVELOPED
AND THAT WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN INDIA COULD NOT BE VIEWED IN
ISOLATION FROM WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

8. IN THE ABSENCE OF A FREE PRESS, INDIA'S RUMOR MILLS ARE
GRINDING OUT OVERTIME. SOME OF THESE UNCONFIRMED STORIES ARE
BEING CIRCULATED BY NEWSMEN, PERHAPS IN THE HOPE OF OBTAINING
VERIFICATION TO SATISFY THEIR OWN PERSONAL CURIOSITY. MOST
CURRENT ARE STORIES THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CABINET IS
LIKELY TO BE RESHUFFLED SOON. LAW MINISTER GOKHALE IS SAID TO
BE A PRIME CANDIDATE FOR REPLACEMENT, BECAUSE THE PRIME MINISTER
ALLEGEDLY IS DISPLEASED WITH HIS HANDLING OF HER COURT CASE. THE
MILL ALSO HAS IT THAT FINANCE MINISTER SUBRAMANIAM WILL EXIT
AND THAT HOME MINISTER RAMANDA REDDY AND DEFENSE MINISTER SWARAN
SINGH REMAIN IN OFFICE BUT IN NAME ONLY, WITH MRS. GANDHI
ACTIVELY SUPERVISING THEIR MINISTRIES. A CONGRESS PARTY MP IS
CREDITED WITH A STORY THAT 30-40 MILITARY OFFICERS, OF ALL
THREE SERVICES, ARE UNDER ARREST. WE BELIEVE THAT MOST OF THESE
RUMORS ARE UNFOUNDED AND ARE REPORTING THEM MAINLY TO GIVE OUR
READERS AN IDEA OF THE ATMOSPHERICS HERE.
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